

# Volunteers for the environment

By James Aucoin

**W**hen more than 100 oil-soaked loons were washed ashore last year after the sinking of a coal vessel, environmental volunteers were ready. The loons, their black and white plumage covered with heavy oil, were sent to several rehabilitation centers.

Twenty-eight were taken to Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, Inc., a bird "hospital" in the basement of the Delaware Audubon Society. After careful, repeated scrubbing and tender nursing by the Tri-State staff and volunteers, 14 of the 28 injured birds survived—a phenomenal success rate compared to other attempts to save oiled birds.

"My heart is very much in Tri-State," says Helen Kubico, a retired high school chemistry teacher and one of the more than 100 volunteers at the center. "I really like handling the birds and being close to them."

Kubico, a self-avowed nature lover who likes to snorkel so she can see fish "eyeball to eyeball," also helped Tri-State last year in the halls of the Delaware state capitol, where she and other activists successfully lobbied the legislators for the center's first state grant-in-aid.

Tri-State, like many other environmental groups, depends on volunteers like Kubico. Committed to working eight hours a month at the center, she often is drawn into much longer hours, many times double-checking on the injured, sick or orphaned birds she cares for.

Like others, Kubico discovered environmental activism in her retire-



Retired teacher Helen Kubico, a volunteer at the Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research facility, ministers to wounded birds and lobbies Delaware State legislators.

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**Environmental groups need and welcome volunteers, says activist Don Pierce.**

ment years. It could not have come at a better time as far as the environmental groups are concerned. Faced with what they perceive as indifference and even hostility from some sectors, environmentalists are rekindling the fire of grassroots activism that burned so strong during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"One of the main things the groups need is volunteer help," says Don Pierce, Midwest representative, for Friends of the Earth. "The jobs can be as mentally creative and as physically taxing as the volunteers want to make them."

The many environmental groups active in the United States today have a strong tradition of involvement by older people. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club in 1892 and father of the American conservation movement, published his first book, *The Mountains of California*, at the age of 56 and continued writing conservation books until his death in 1914 at 76.

About a third of the 4 million members of the National Wildlife Federation are over 55. David R. Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club and founder of Friends of the Earth, successfully

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## A labor of love that makes our world a better place

campaign last year for a seat on the Sierra Club board of directors. He is 71, and just warming up for a new crusade: to get the environmental movement more deeply into the fight against the nuclear arms buildup, which he considers the ultimate environmental threat.

Several environmental groups have their roots in America's first conservation movement, spurred on in the early 1900s by President Theodore Roosevelt and his influential forest service chief, Gifford Pinchot, and of course by John Muir. The modern environmental movement began on "Earth Day," April 22, 1970, when demonstrators on the nation's college campuses focused the country's attention on environmental pollution and natural resources exploitation.

Today the public remains firmly in favor of environmental protection. Many of the environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, have experienced recent increases in new memberships.

The groups point to public opinion surveys that report support for environmental protection. A recent poll sponsored by the Continental Group, a large, diversified corporation, found that 49 percent of those questioned said the nation must accept a slower growth rate to protect the environment. Only 24 percent said environmental standards should be lowered to promote economic growth; another 24 percent said both environmental protection and economic growth should be achieved

without sacrifices to the other.

Environmental groups can be as radical as Earth First!, a small, loose-knit band of eco-pranksters who in 1981 attached a fake crack on the front side of Glen Canyon Dam, or as conservative as the business-oriented Nature Conservancy, a Virginia-based organization that refuses to lobby, rarely litigates and generally removes itself from the center of environmental politics.

Whatever their tactics, most groups are hard working, sincere advocates for the environment and are most accurately represented by the "big three": the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Federation. These groups have local and state chapters and a highly trained staff of ecologists, economists, editors and educators.

"I believe I'm contributing to a good cause, because I believe the earth has got to be protected for future generations," explains Austrian immigrant Hans Hollitscher, a volunteer in the San Francisco office of Friends of the Earth. Hollitscher, an accountant who retired from the U.S. General Services Administration in 1981, helps the group with bookkeeping, editing and correspondence. "I love the outdoors," says Hollitscher, who often hikes in the mountains around San Francisco. "That's one reason I'm here."

"Once you give up and start sitting around, you're going to age much more rapidly," declares Joseph Dudek, a retired tool and die maker

*continued*





SANDRA HUEZO

**Hans Hollitscher (front) believes the earth must be protected for the future.**

from Northbrook, Illinois, who leads hiking and biking trips for the Great Lakes Chapter of the Sierra Club. "By helping with the outings, I'm doing what I like to do."

That is a sentiment echoed by Robert Huncilman of Sedona, Arizona, who retired in 1968 after spending 34 years selling stocks in Indianapolis. Huncilman, a longtime member of the National Parks and Conservation Association, would often daydream in his glassed-in stockbroker's office about what fun it would be to be a park ranger. His dream turned to reality when he learned of a volunteer ranger program sponsored by the National Park Service.

In January 1971, he began as a volunteer tour guide at Sunset Crater National Monument near Flagstaff and in 1973 transferred to Montezuma Castle near Sedona, a national monument protecting the ruins of a prehistoric people, the Sinagua. "I can hardly wait for Tuesday, Friday and Saturday,"

says Huncilman. Those are the days he works at "the castle." As a guide at the monument, "I am able to make people's visits here much more meaningful than they would be otherwise. I hate it when the 4 o'clock [quitting] hour comes."

If you are interested in helping, here's a checklist of environmental groups that seek volunteers:

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION, INC.**, 1346 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20036; 20,000 members; \$15 new membership fee; publishes monthly *Environmental Action*; concentrates on wide range of issues including nuclear energy, toxic wastes and the MX missile; does political lobbying.

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**, 1045 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111; 32,000 members; \$25 regular membership fee, \$12 for student or

retired; members get discounts on Friends of the Earth books; publishes monthly *Not Man Apart*; involved in many environmental issues, including acid rain, nuclear freeze, soil conservation, public lands, pollution, energy and wildlife preservation; litigates, lobbies, educates, researches and organizes.

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022; 500,000 members; \$30 individual membership fee and \$21 for retired person membership; publishes bi-monthly *Audubon*; involved in the conservation and wise use of the world's natural resources, including wildlife protection, energy-use conservation, soil and water conservation, toxic wastes, acid rain and endangered species protection; lobbies, litigates, educates, researches, establishes wildlife sanctuaries and



**Sierra Club volunteer Joseph Dudek leads biking and hiking trips in Illinois.**



Today's environmental groups have a strong tradition of involvement by older Americans that began with John Muir



Volunteer park ranger Robert Huncilman is a guide at Montezuma Castle, Arizona.

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Audubon Nature Centers.

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, 1701 18th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20009; 38,000 members; \$18 associate member fee, \$13 for student or retired; members can participate in tours of national parks; publishes *National Parks* bi-monthly; concentrates on issues dealing with protection and expansion of national parks.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, 1412 16th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036; 4 million members; \$10.50 fee for national associate membership; publishes *National Wildlife* bi-monthly, *International Wildlife* bi-monthly and *Ranger Rick* (a monthly for children); engages in a variety of issues, including resources conservation, wildlife protection, wilderness preservation and energy conservation.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, 800 N. Kent Street, Suite 1800, Arlington, VA 22209; 200,038 members; \$10 membership fee for the individual, \$15 fee for family membership; publishes bimonthly *Nature Conservancy News*, included in membership; cooperates with colleges, government agencies and other groups to acquire and preserve lands for scientific and educational purposes; maintains system of 700 natural area sanctuaries nationwide.

SIERRA CLUB, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108; 343,000 members; \$29 regular membership fee, \$15 for retired persons; publishes *Sierra* bi-monthly; involved in many environmental issues, including clean air, clean water, public lands, oil and gas leasing, soil and water conservation; supports political candidates.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20006; 100,000 members; \$25 membership dues; publishes quarterly *Wilderness*; focuses on public lands issues. ■

KATHLEEN NORRIS COOK



# Fun fare

Produced by Lorena Fletcher Farrell

## Peerless Olympians

In this Olympic year, here's a chance to jog your athletic memory. These eight Americans proved their superiority *and* durability by winning gold medals in consecutive Olympic Games. Can you pick the correct event for each competitor?



Solutions on page 116

1. Only Bob Richards has ever won back-to-back golds (1952, 1956) in the (a) high jump (b) pole vault (c) triple jump.

2. Only Glenn Davis has ever won back-to-back golds (1956, 1960) in the (a) long jump (b) 20-kilometer walk (c) 400-meter hurdles.

3. Only Mike Burton has ever won back-to-back golds (1968, 1972) in the (a) shot put (b) 100-meter run (c) 1,500-meter freestyle.

4. Only Patricia McCormick has ever won back-to-back golds (1952, 1956) in *both* (a) high and long jumps (b) platform and springboard diving (c) 200- and 400-meter runs.

5. Only Lee Calhoun has ever won back-to-back golds

(1956, 1960) in the (a) springboard diving (b) steeplechase (c) 110-meter hurdles.

6. Only Al Oerter has ever won *four* consecutive golds (1956, 1960, 1964, 1968) in the (a) discus throw (b) 200-meter butterfly (c) 400-meter run.

7. Only Bob Mathias has ever won back-to-back golds (1948, 1952) in the (a) decathlon (b) marathon (c) pentathlon.

8. Only Wyomia Tyus has ever won back-to-back golds (1964, 1968) in the (a) javelin throw (b) 100-meter run (c) 200-meter breaststroke.

## To the colors!

Speaking of Flag Day, try to identify these real or imaginary folk who've brought us pleasure in one way or another. Each has Red, White or Blue as one name.

1. Gainsborough subject
2. Notable country singer
3. Illinois' "Galloping Ghost"
4. *Amos 'n' Andy* secretary
5. Old-time serial queen
6. Comic-strip cowboy
7. Comedian who "dood it!"
8. Housekeeper for Doc, Happy, et al
9. *The Once and Future King* author
10. 1971 Cy Young Award-winning pitcher

## A June 17 test

Ten "Fathers" are described below. Do you know them?

1. Father \_\_\_\_\_: nickname for 16th President
2. Father \_\_\_\_\_: G. K. Chesterson sleuth
3. Father \_\_\_\_\_: Santa Claus in Great Britain
4. Father \_\_\_\_\_: founder of Boys Town
5. Father \_\_\_\_\_: "white old man" of Russian winter
6. Father \_\_\_\_\_: Washington Irving's name for New York City
7. Father \_\_\_\_\_: river of Osiris
8. Father \_\_\_\_\_: old man with hourglass and scythe
9. Father \_\_\_\_\_: Dutch poet Jacob
10. Father \_\_\_\_\_: subject of Robert Southey poem, Lewis Carroll parody

## Independence days

Here are 10 *other* countries that gained independence in July—and all in the past 20 years. You've heard their names, but where on earth are they? Match each country (and its year of independence), left, with its locale, right.

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Malawi (1964)                | a. Atlantic O. E of Florida                                |
| 2. Maldives (1965)              | b. Atlantic O. off W tip of Africa                         |
| 3. Bahamas (1973)               | c. Indian O. between Madagascar & SE Africa                |
| 4. São Tomé and Príncipe (1975) | d. Pacific O. where International Dateline crosses Equator |
| 5. Comoros (1975)               | e. SE Africa   |
| 6. Cape Verde (1975)            | f. Indian O. SW of S tip of India                          |
| 7. Kiribati (1979)              | g. Atlantic O. off coast of West-Central Africa            |
| 8. Vanuatu (1980)               | h. Pacific O. NE of Australia                              |